



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/809,366	03/26/2004	Masahiro Ishii	119087	7625
25944	7590	06/12/2006	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320				VARGAS, DIXOMARA
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2859	

DATE MAILED: 06/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/809,366	ISHII, MASAHIRO	

Examiner	Art Unit	
Dixomara Vargas	2859	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-9 and 17-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 10-16 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 05/08/06.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-9, 17-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Haneda Satoru et al. (JP 8190245).

With respect to claims 1, 5-6, 25-27 and 31, Haneda Satoru discloses an image forming apparatus (Figures 2 and 3), comprising: processing units for respective colors of developing agents each of which can be attached to and detached from an image forming apparatus body, the processing units including (Abstract; #500-#503): a developing agent storage chamber that stores developing agent therein (#6001) a developing agent holding member that holds the developing agent (#600 and drum on the top not numbered), and an image holding member that holds a developing agent image that is formed by development of an electrostatic latent image by the developing agent held by the developing agent holding member (#411); exposing devices for the respective colors of the developing agents (#300-303), each of which is fixed to the image forming apparatus body (#112) and scans a laser beam to the image holding member in order to form the electrostatic latent image onto the image holding member (Paragraph 0002 of the Translated Detail Description), and a cover member that is provided on a side opposite to a transfer position where the developing agent image held by the image holding member

is transferred and that opens and closes with respect to the image forming apparatus body (lid that opens with pivoting member #113), wherein the processing units and the exposing devices are alternately disposed (Abstract), and the processing units are attached to and detached from the image forming apparatus body via an opening defined by the cover member that is opened with respect to the image forming apparatus body (Abstract).

3. With respect to claims 2, 28 and 30, Haneda Satoru discloses the developing agent holding member is provided above the image holding member and the developing agent storage chamber is provided above the developing agent holding member in a state where the processing unit is attached to the image forming apparatus body (As seen on Figures 2 and 3).

4. With respect to claim 3, Haneda Satoru discloses a wall of the developing agent storage portion, extending in the processing unit attaching and detaching direction, extends substantially in a vertical direction or is inclined inwardly upward of the developing agent storage portion when the processing unit is attached to the image forming apparatus body (As seen on Figures 2 and 3).

5. With respect to claim 4, Haneda Satoru discloses an agitator that agitates the developing agent is provided in the developing agent storage portion, at a position near the developing agent holding member (As seen on Figure 3).

6. With respect to claim 7, Haneda Satoru discloses the image holding portion includes an engagement portion and the developing portion includes an engaging portion engageable with the engagement portion (Paragraphs 3-5 and 12 of the translation).

7. With respect to claim 8, Haneda Satoru discloses the developing portion includes an operating portion in order to release the engaging portion from the engagement portion (Paragraphs 3-5 and 12 of the translation).

8. With respect to claim 9, Haneda Satoru discloses the image holding portion includes a first guiding portion that guides the developing portion so that the developing agent holding member faces the image holding member, and the developing portion includes a first guided portion that is guided by the first guiding portion (Figure 3, #3002).

9. With respect to claims 17-18, Haneda Satoru discloses a grip to be held by a user (#400-#404) and an operating panel to be operated by the user (Figure 1).

10. With respect to claim 19, Haneda Satoru discloses the processing unit can be placed in both a vertical position in which the image forming member and the developing agent holding member are aligned in a vertical direction, and in a horizontal position in which the image forming member and the developing agent holding member are aligned in a horizontal direction, and the processing unit includes a first contacting portion, which contacts an installation plane when the processing unit is placed in the vertical position, and a second contacting portion, which contacts the installation plane when the processing unit is placed in the horizontal position (figures 2, 4-8).

11. With respect to claim 20, Haneda Satoru discloses the processing unit includes a charging device that is disposed opposite to the image holding member and electrically charges the image holding member, and wherein the charging device is movable between a first position where the image holding member and the charging device are aligned in a processing unit attaching and detaching direction and a second position where the image

holding member and the charging device are aligned in a direction orthogonal to the processing unit attaching and detaching direction (#900).

12. With respect to claims 21-22, Haneda Satoru discloses a charging device is a first contacting portion when the charging

13. With respect to claim 23, Haneda Satoru discloses a filling aperture is provided to one wall, in a longitudinal direction of the developing agent holding member, of the developing agent storage portion at a position far from the developing agent holding member in order to pour the developing agent into the developing agent storing portion (Paragraph 0019. #800).

14. With respect to claim 24, Haneda Satoru discloses the developing agent remaining on the image holding member after the developing agent image held by the image holding member is transferred onto a recording medium, is collected by the developing agent holding member (Paragraph 0007). | |

15. With respect to claim 29, Haneda Satoru discloses the supply device is provided between the developing agent holding member and the developing agent storage chamber (Figure 3).

Allowable Subject Matter

16. Claims 10-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

17. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

- a. With respect to claim 10, the claim has been found allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest an image forming apparatus wherein the image forming apparatus body includes a second guiding portion that guides the attachment and detachment of the developing portion with respect to the image forming apparatus body in combination with the remaining limitations of claims 5 and 9 above.
- b. With respect to claims 11-16, the claims have been found allowable due to their dependency on claim 10 above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dixomara Vargas whose telephone number is (571) 272-2252. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8:00 am. to 4:30 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2859

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Dixomara Vargas
Art Unit 2859
May 30, 2006



Diego Gutierrez
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800